

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A teat for a baby or a child, the teat comprising a plate on which the dental arches rest and defining a bite plane, said plate being terminated towards the front by a vestibular screen against which at least one of the dental arches comes into abutment in a desired position, said plate being secured to means projecting forwards out from the mouth, the teat being characterized in that it includes a nipple projecting from the rear of the plate, said nipple being in register with the back portion of the tongue when the teat is in operation in the mouth of the baby or child so as to co-operate with the tongue and the palate and stimulate movement analogous to that of suckling, so that the teat performs simultaneously the functions of providing proper relative positioning of the dental arches in the mouth of the baby or child, by means of the configuration of the plate and of the vestibular screen, and of stimulating the tongue and a dynamic functioning of the stomatognathic system.

mouth / jaw system

2. (Previously Amended) A teat according to claim 1, characterized in that the projecting nipple is connected to the rear of the plate by elastic means, enabling the nipple to move away from the vestibular screen while then applying a return force to the nipple urging it towards the vestibular screen.

3. (Previously Amended) A teat according to claim 1, characterized in that the vestibular screen comprises:

- a top portion situated above the bite plane; and
- a bottom portion situated below the bite plane and offset rearwards relative to the top portion.

4. (Previously Amended) A teat according to claim 3, characterized in that the offset between the top and bottom portions of the vestibular screen is about 1 mm to 3 mm.

5. (Previously Amended) A teat according to claim 2, characterized in that a substantially vertical wall is integrally formed with the rear edge of the plate and co-operates with the vestibular screen to define an aligner for receiving the dental arches.

6. (Previously Amended) A teat according to claim 5, characterized in that said plate is generally U-shaped, with limbs extending rearwards to the rear ends of the dental arches.

7. (Previously Amended) A teat according to claim 6, characterized in that the plate, the vestibular screen, and the nipple are integrally molded.

8. (Previously Amended) A teat according to claim 7, characterized in that the surface of the plate includes abrasive means.

9. (Previously Amended) A teat according to claim 8, characterized in that the means projecting forwards out from the mouth comprise a shield for pressing against the front faces of the lips or a handle ring.

10. (Previously Amended) A teat according to claim 1, characterized in that the means projecting forwards out from the mouth comprise an element for closing a baby's bottle, and the teat has a channel passing longitudinally therethrough to enable a baby or a child to suck a liquid contained in the bottle.

11. (Previously Presented) A teat according to claim 2, characterized in that the vestibular screen comprises:

- a top portion situated above the bite plane; and
- a bottom portion situated below the bite plane and offset rearwards relative to the top portion.

12. (Previously Presented) A teat according to claim 2, characterized in that the means projecting forwards out from the mouth comprise an element for closing a baby's bottle, and the teat has a channel passing longitudinally there through to enable a baby or a child to suck a liquid contained in the bottle.

13. (Previously Presented) A teat according to claim 3, characterized in that the means projecting forwards out from the mouth comprise an element for closing a baby's bottle, and the teat has a channel passing longitudinally there through to enable a baby or a child to suck a liquid contained in the bottle

14. (Previously Presented) A teat according to claim 4, characterized in that the means projecting forwards out from the mouth comprise an element for closing a baby's

bottle, and the teat has a channel passing longitudinally there through to enable a baby or a child to suck a liquid contained in the bottle.

15. (Previously Presented) A teat according to claim 5, characterized in that the means projecting forwards out from the mouth comprise an element for closing a baby's bottle, and the teat has a channel passing longitudinally there through to enable a baby or a child to suck a liquid contained in the bottle.

16. (Previously Presented) A teat according to claim 6, characterized in that the means projecting forwards out from the mouth comprise an element for closing a baby's bottle, and the teat has a channel passing longitudinally there through to enable a baby or a child to suck a liquid contained in the bottle.

17. (Previously Presented) A teat according to claim 7, characterized in that the means projecting forwards out from the mouth comprise an element for closing a baby's bottle, and the teat has a channel passing longitudinally there through to enable a baby or a child to suck a liquid contained in the bottle.

18. (Previously Presented) A teat according to claim 8, characterized in that the means projecting forwards out from the mouth comprise an element for closing a baby's bottle, and the teat has a channel passing longitudinally there through to enable a baby or a child to suck a liquid contained in the bottle.

19. (Previously Presented) A teat according to claim 9, characterized in that the means projecting forwards out from the mouth comprise an element for closing a baby's bottle, and the teat has a channel passing longitudinally there through to enable a baby or a child to suck a liquid contained in the bottle.

20. (Previously Presented) A teat according to claim 11, characterized in that the means projecting forwards out from the mouth comprise an element for closing a baby's bottle, and the teat has a channel passing longitudinally there through to enable a baby or a child to suck a liquid contained in the bottle.